

## A draft sample City Resilience Criteria/Checklist for local governments

### HFA Priority 1 – Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority

1. Have competent and accountable urban and local governance in place, including **mechanisms** for disaster risk reduction, based on a participatory dialogue between city **governments and civil society** to identify risks, and apply risk reduction and preparedness
2. Have an assigned city **budget** for disaster risk reduction, with provisions for finance and technical cooperation enabling low-income families to reduce risks in their housing and environment, and to strengthen resilience through effective social safety nets
3. Have proactive policies and strategies to **provide safe land for low-income citizens**

### HFA Priority 2 – Know the Risks and Take Action

4. Have a **comprehensive risk assessment** constantly updated and used as basis for urban development plans and early warning system, and easily available and understood by the public

### HFA Priority 3 – Build Understanding and Awareness

5. Have **education programmes** on disaster risk reduction in place in schools and local communities

### HFA Priority 4 – Reduce Risk

6. Invest to reduce the deficit of risk-reducing infrastructure, such as flood **drainage in high risk areas, and put in place management systems with local communities to ensure their maintenance.**
7. Make risk compliant **building regulations and land use planning norms** appropriate to the needs and possibilities of low income citizens and apply them as an instrument to improve the safety of the built environment
8. Have all **schools and health facilities** and other **critical facilities** assessed and upgraded as necessary to withstand major hazards, and develop plans for recovering and **protecting heritage** buildings and sites
9. Have plans and regulations in place to protect **ecosystems and natural buffers** to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards, and ensure that **climate change adaptation initiatives** builds on risk reduction practices

### HFA Priority 5 – Be Prepared and Ready to Act

10. Have **early warning and emergency management** capacities in place, with locally owned preparedness plans known and regular public drills

#### Note:

The Checklist is organized based on the Priorities as set out in the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)*. See further: [www.unisdr.org/hfa](http://www.unisdr.org/hfa)

## Use of the Checklist:

The success of the initiative rests on whether we can attract a great number of participating cities that “sign up” to the suggested criteria and checklist. This checklist builds on the priorities adopted in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

For the Campaign, UNISDR will use these criteria with all the campaign partners to develop and promote good practice; promote capacity development and cross-learning of experiences in specific areas; identify partners who can specifically provide expertise in one or more areas.

With the participation of partners, UNISDR will:

- **Develop an interactive Campaign website** that displays the names and the numbers of participating cities by different categories, including (a) countries and regions, (b) population scales and (c) geographical and hazard conditions.
- **Organize region based networks for learning and capacity development**- supported by a number of promoters and “champions” drawn from the participants in the “Alliance for local governments in disaster risk reduction”, academia and partner organizations
- **Organize policy dialogues and workshops** with local governments in each region, to learn from specific experiences, promote the investment opportunities between local, national and international partners, programming and to increase the visibility of the subject
- **Conduct a mid-term analysis** on the responses from the cities, in order to increase awareness and encourage strengthened assistance by international and regional partners of the Campaign
- Nominate a few high-performing cities (e.g. one city per Criteria area) and award a special title such as “**Best Model Cities**”- aim at having least 50 Role Model cities of different size and in different regions- exposed to different hazards.

## Why do local governments want to participate in the Campaign?

- **Potential incentives:**
  - To get access to expertise on how to reduce disaster risk, and have learning opportunities
  - Get visibility for political leadership and innovation- in the case of Role Model cities
  - Participate in or offer hosting for city to city learning events; be part of high visibility events in all regions for “Role Model cities” to discuss with national or global counterparts critical issues, link to climate change adaptation, MDGs and financing forums.
  - UNISDR would dedicate the UN-Nippon Foundation Award on Disaster Reduction to reward best practices of local governments to successfully reduce disaster risk- and link this to high-profile media events

Publicize good practice from cities in publications, on website, in media (written and broadcast)